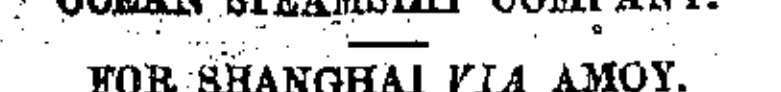


To-day's Advertisements.



 Myrmidon,
Captain NIXSON, will be
despatched as above at
daylight TO-MORROW, the 29th Instant.
For Freight or Passage, apply to
BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agents.
Hongkong, September 23, 1892. 1652

**CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY,
LIMITED.**

**FOR PORT DARWIN, QUEENSLAND
PORTS, SYDNEY & MELBOURNE.**

The Co.'s Steamship

R. NELSON, R.N.R.,
Commander, will be dis-
patched as above at 4 pm on SATURDAY,
the 1st October.

The attention of Passengers is directed
to the Superior Accommodation offered by
this Steamer. First-class Saloon and Cabins
are situated forward of the Engine.
Second-class Passengers are berthed in the
middle of the Steamer. A Refrigerating Chamber ensures
the supply of Fresh Provisions during the
entire voyage. A duly qualified Surgeon is
on board.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agents,
Hongkong, September 28, 1892. 1591

THE
EXCELLENT QUALITIES
OF THE
CARLISBACH LIQUID FEET REMEDY,
SYRUP OF FIGS,
COMMAND IT
TO all who suffer from the ill depending
on a weak or inactive condition of the

KIDNEYS, LIVER AND BOWELS.
As it is easily taken,
Pleasant to the taste,
Acceptable to the Stomach,
And does not irritate the *Thymus* on which it acts,
Changing the system through the natural
channels δ ,
And permanently curing Habitual Constipation,
Thereby restoring the liver to Health.
It is unlike any other remedy, being pro-
prietarily refined so as containing no disagree-
able or injurious substance of any kind,
And as it acts promptly on the Bowels
without griping, irritating or weakening
then in any way,

SYRUP OF FIGS.
Gives entire satisfaction,
And has quickly become the most popular
Remedy of the age.
Its wonderful merits may be proved by
the use of a single bottle.

Agents:
DAKIN, CHUCKSHANK & Co.,
Victoria Dispensary. 1660

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

September 27 :—
Denteros, German steamer, 1,197, W. A.
Dineo, Nagasaki Sept. 22, Coal.—Strassner
& Co.

September 28 :—

Puskin, Chinese steamer, 1,504, L. and Co., Shanghai September 29, General.—C. M. S. N. Co.

Mathilde, German steamer, 600, P. Moss & Co., Hongkong Bay September 24, Salt.—STERNES & Co.

Polypheusus, British steamer, 1,813, W. Lee, Liverpool and Singapore September 22, General.—BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

Nayana, British steamer, 863, Roach & Co., Hongkong Bay September 24, Amy & 26, and Swallow 27, General.—DOUTLAS STEAMSHIP CO.

Akhe, Danish steamer, 335, H. Bygum & Co., Copenhagen September 26, and Holboiv 27, General.—ARSENIC, KARBERG & Co.

Catterham, British steamer, 1,406, No. 1, Shannon, 26 September 23, 6 a.m., General.—G. L. LIVERMORE & Co.

Mario Teresa, Austrian steamer, 1,924, Ruggieri Depold, Trieste August 12, and Singapore September 22, General.—DAVID SASSON, SONS & Co.

DEPARTURES.

September 28:—

Charles Tower, for Kutohinoza, Zefiro, to Amoy and Manila.

Thibet, for Singapore and B. m'bay.

Lots ing, for Singapore.

Kowling, for Amoy and Manila.

Daphne, for Yokohama.

Takung, for Hoio.

Fushun, for Whampoa.

—

CELEBES.

Dinar, for Saigon.

Triumph, for Tonkin.

Myrmidon, for Amoy.

Ask, for Holboiv.

Polypheusus for Shanghai.

Arday, for Sourabaya.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Fushun*, from Shanghai, 78 Chinese for Hongkong; for Canton, Mr Y. Oloos.

Per *Polypheusus*, from Singapore, 4

Per Ancona, from Ucaal Port, Mrs. S. J. Capt. Standen, Messrs Wang and Wang and 1 Chinese.
Per Cathayen, from Kobe, Lieutenant Nicholson, Mrs. Goodley, and Miss Cocklin.
Per Maria Teresa, from Trieste, &c., &c., Ruwert, and 287 Chinese.

—

SHIPPING REPORTS.

The Chinese steamer *Fukien* reports to have strong North wind to Océanus; at Hongkong, 10 days; at Shanghai, light variable breeze and fine clear weather.
The British steamer *Polypemus* reports to have fine weather throughout, winds light and variable.
From the British steamer *Namoo* reports, left Foochow on the 24th September, at 12 noon, fresh N. E. gale and cloudy, with following sea to Amoy. Left Amoy on the 26th, and Swatow on the 27th; from Amoy to Swatow, light to strong S. E. breeze and fine clear weather; from Swatow port, light S. W. westerly breeze and S. clear weather. Steamed in Foochow, Y.

7.35 p.m.

The China Mail.

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1892.

THE FUTURE FOOD SUPPLY OF CHINA.

Within the past few years agriculturists and other chemists have devoted much attention to investigations directed towards the action of the digestive organs upon certain kinds of food, and the conditions under which plant life is especially that which yields the most nourishing food, can be produced in the

in these and cognate subjects have appeared, both in Europe and America. One of these (by Professor A. W. Coatsworth in the *Century Magazine*) we wish to refer, as having an important bearing on the future of China, in which, it may be assumed, we are all more or less interested. The Malthusian theory

over a hundred years. If, as Mathews seems to show, population increases at a geometrical rate while food production increases only in an arithmetical rate, it is evident that the question "Is 'worth living'?" will not be permanent and debatable. That our Anglo-Saxon civilisation is incredibly and criminally wasteful of food is much better realised by those of us who live among Chinese than by people at the home land. There is not only vast waste, particularly in a new and prodigious land, like the United States, but there is, especially in that country, a disproportionate consumption of fat and sugar. Our so-called "sewage system" is a standing disgrace. Refuse which would be

is, by laborious and most expensive methods, first made to pollute waterways as much as possible afterwards finds its filthy way into ocean to be lost there. Hence arises Victor Hugo long ago observed, consequences—pestilence in the dwelling and hunger in the furrow. We all its unsavoury odours, in respect economy of recuperative resources soil, China is a whole millennium advance of Europe or America. It true we are now told that the precious nitrogen lost as we have just remarked by Nature's marvellous housekeeping (which is Saxon for "economy") returned to the soil in ammonia brought rain water distilled from the ocean,

total thus recklessly squandered. Most of the remainder goes into marine vegetation which supports the life of fish, possible quantities of which—as computed by both Professor Huxley and Professor Baird—surpasses belief. In this direction Nature is lavish beyond conception, and with proper management by man the supply is forever inexhaustible. The saving in the use of fish as food is direct in furnishing yachting and in bringing back the precious nitrogen once lost. It is indeed

Within the past generation mar-
garden has been revolutionised
the great market gardens in the ne-
bourhood of Paris. These seem to
gigantic hotbeds and forcing-hou-
surrounded by lofty walls, prote-

and so fortified as to defy climate. The effect of the system has been far as vegetable productions are concerned, to remove Paris two degrees further south. Grapes and other fruit can be had at all seasons, and when Paris has been supplied with vegetables the surplus is sent to London. It seems most strange (and not as easily explained as one could desire) is England's indifference to soil. Her

prising results are obtained by means of mechanical appliances, by a careful selection of plants and by the furnishing of the proper plant food. Not so long ago such institutions, in which agriculture is scientifically taught, used to be contemptuously dubbed "Cabbage Colleges." That, however, has now passed. It was an English chemist (Murray) who led the way in the use of phosphate of lime

now a blooming garden. It was I who brought the suggestion to notice. Now fossil phosphates have been found all over the world, and reclamation of much poor land is a question of transportation of areas in every civilized country declined in value because the soil has become used up. The richer the more it has been wasted. But thanks to a knowledge of the

chemistry, a process of recuperation begun, and it is thought that the reducing power of the earth cannot be so low as it is at present. Mathius greatly underrated this during power of the soil. What to be termed 'fertility' may not altogether ignored. The all-important factor is plant food, and soil must be dispensed with *in toto*. What plant requires is carbon, oxygen, h

the air, some of them through the leaves, only one or two per cent of minerals to be drawn from the earth. Marvellous experiments show that plants grown in sand—previously heated to a heat in order to destroy all germs—and supplied with minute proper plant food, develop to the height of plants in fertile soil as well as the seed themselves.

A German professor thus raised a plant of Japanese buck-wheat nine high, bearing 798 ripe seeds, but 108 imperfect ones. Most of the elements of plant food abound, and what are called barren soils, elements most apt to be lacking phosphates, potassium and nitro-

